

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express slot for coupling PCI-Express devices to a host system including a processor, the PCI-Express slot comprising:

5 a PCI-Express connector ~~configured to~~ for receiving ~~receive~~ a card having at least two independent PCI-Express devices, each independent PCI-Express device using an independent set of PCI-Express lanes, to couple at least two of the PCI-Express devices using at least two independent set-sets of PCI-Express lanes;

10 wherein the PCI-Express slot is located on a motherboard of the host system and the host system processor communicates with the at least two independent PCI-Express devices via the two independent sets of PCI-Express lanes without using a bridge.

2. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

15 3. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

4. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

5. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

20 6. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

7. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, where X2, X4, X8, X12, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

25 8. (Currently Amended) A system for coupling plural PCI-Express devices to a host system including a processor, the system comprising:

30 a motherboard with a PCI-Express slot having a PCI-Express connector configured to receive a card ~~to couple~~ having at least two of the independent PCI-Express devices, each independent PCI-Express device using at least two an independent sets set of PCI-Express lanes;

wherein the host system processor communicates with the at least two independent PCI-Express devices via the two independent sets of PCI-Express lanes without using a bridge.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X16, or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

15. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express connector in a PCI-Express slot on a mother board of a host system, the host system including a processor, the connector being configured to ~~couple~~ receive a card having at least two independent PCI-Express devices to couple the independent PCI-Express devices to the host system, each independent PCI-Express device using an independent set of PCI-Express lanes, wherein the host system processor communicates with the at least two independent PCI-Express devices via the two independent sets of PCI-Express lanes without using a bridge.

16. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

18. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

19. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

20. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two independent PCI-Express devices.

21. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two

5 independent PCI-Express devices.